

boa constrictor under my bunk," reported Sgt. James Townsend.

"We'll just have to inform all the new men of our unit of our unusual 'rat trapper'," said Lee.

187th Avn Joins 196th

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10) —

The Blackhawks of the 187th Aviation Company have joined the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's attack force.

The 187th is the first helicopter unit to be attached specifically to the 196th. Previously, the brigade had to depend on choppers attached to other units for resupply, airmobile operations, and helicopter weapons support.

The 187th and its 31 Huey helicopters are assigned to the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade.

It was formed and activated at Ft. Bragg, N.C., in September, training specifically for Vietnam.

Attached to the Blackhawks is the 602nd Transportation Detachment which maintains the choppers, and the 1st Signal Avionics Detachment, which handles communications.

New Well Means Plenty Of Water For 196th Bde

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10) —

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade will soon start using a well that engineers believe is capable of producing 200 gallons of water per minute, 24 hours a day. This could be the first step toward a central supply of running water, the first of its kind in Vietnam.

Area Supervisor Lee Eaves, a civilian engineer, valued the well in comparison to the 70 or 80 his company has already dug in Vietnam. "Few are as nice as this one," he said.

"There will be a total of six wells of this type for this area... possibly more. Once the pumps have been set, the Army will operate them," he said.

Major J. H. Carnes, 196th brigade engineer, selected the spot that led to this well. His primary concern was to choose a spot con-

venient to the ice plant, which also is a new addition to the 196th Brigade base camp.

PLEIKU, (4th INF-10) — A feminine touch has been added to the Civic Action program in the 4th Infantry Division. Two American civilian nurses, serving with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) at Pleiku Province Hospital, have volunteered to spend their off-duty hours working in the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) activities of the 4th Division's new "Good Neighbor" program.

Miss Joan Boyd is a graduate of the University of Arkansas School of Nursing and served in the Monterey, Calif., Peninsula area before coming to Vietnam. Her co-worker is Miss Noreen Gilroy who studied nursing at Saint Anne's Nursing School in Chicago. Both Miss Boyd and Miss Gilroy are limited Foreign Service Reserve Officers working for the State Department under contract with USAID.

In classes presented with the aid of a Djarai interpreter, Miss Gilroy and Miss Boyd plan to teach rudimentary nursing procedures to women from each of the forty-one villages in the "Good Neighbor" program area. Eventually, it is hoped that sanitation conditions can be improved to the point that village nurses, working in local dispen-

venient to the ice plant, which also is a new addition to the 196th Brigade base camp.

Eaves and the major believe the water is clean, but they can't be sure how clean at this point. "I doubt that much purification will be necessary," Carnes said, "but we'll purify it anyway."

The well is 297 feet deep with an 18-inch bore. An eight-inch galvanized casing holds a rotary drill in place inside the bore. This drill pushes down a tremendous amount of air, which in turn forces the water back up through the bore. Eaves said it took about 12 days to complete the well.

"We're going to expand the present water point by running lines from it," Carnes said, as he outlined the work yet to be completed.

saries, will be able to handle all but those serious cases which must be treated by the province hospital's doctors.

The nurses have made a few suggestions, among them being that special vitamins be obtained and issued to mothers of small babies to improve the quality of their milk, and to maintain the mother's health while nursing. Miss Boyd also gave womanly advice on the types of vegetable seeds which should be issued to

101st Abn Prov Is Not Always

PHAN RANG, (101st ABN-10) —

Paratroopers from the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division achieved a non-military but significant victory on a recent patrol.

While on a reconnaissance patrol during a recent operation south

400 Letters Help Morale

CU CHI, (25th INF-10) — When you are on a combat operation deep in War Zone C, a letter at the end of the day can mean a lot. For the men of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade fighting in Operation Junction City, a recent day was a little brighter because of grade school students in snowbound Maine.

"Just before the beginning of Junction City I received a large box," said brigade commander Col. Marvin D. Fuller. "The box contained over 400 letters for the men of the battalions." The letters were addressed to "The Brave Soldiers in Vietnam," and "To a Fighting Man in Vietnam."

"We love you and appreciate all you are doing for us," said one seventh grade student. A sixth-grader wrote, "We read the news every day to see how smart you are."

One letter received by a machinegunner in the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry, contained cut out cartoon strips from a Maine paper. "I didn't know whether you get to read the comics," the writer explained.



GROCERY CHOPPER—Members of the 25th Infantry Division rapidly unload the first resupply chopper to arrive in their area following a battle which killed 84 North Vietnamese. The action took place during Operation Pershing.

196th Officer Aids Vietnamese Girl Half Blinded By Smallpox

TAY NINH, (196th INF-10) — "A cuter little girl I've never seen, but her eyes were like two pools of muddy water."

These were the words of 1st Lt. John Gilkey, executive officer of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade's Company C, 8th Support Battalion, when, on a visit to a

Vietnamese village near Tay Ninh city, he met Chi, a seven-year-old Vietnamese girl whose eyes bore permanent scarring from smallpox.

Gilkey, himself the father of a seven-year-old girl, decided to do something about Chi's plight. Contact was made with the ophthalmologist at the Army's 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. Soon the lieutenant was en route to the Vietnamese capital with her, for corrective surgery.

"The permanent scarring could not be corrected," Gilkey explained, "but there is still hope for improving her fast-fading eyesight. The operation consisted of making a slit on the upper edge of the corner of the right eye,

permitting more light to enter."

The operation was only the first step to help Chi in her fight against eventual blindness. Over a period of weeks, an exhausting series of eye exercises were administered to teach her to use the corrected right eye and reduce the strain on her overworked left eye. Medics from Co. C, which operates the brigade dispensary, made three visits weekly to her village to assist in the post-operative exercises.

Now, six weeks after Gilkey's initial contact with Chi, and after three trips to Saigon and many post-operative visits to her village, she is able to see images clearly that had previously been a blur.

VC Get Hit

Most Malaria

Artillery Observer Is Awarded DFC

PLEI DJERENG, (4th INF-10) — First Lieutenant Richard Mika, an artillery observer who ignored intense fire to prevent a friendly unit from being overrun, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross here recently.

Mika, now executive officer of Battery C, 6th Battalion, 29th artillery, was flying as a radio relay station near Plei Diereng during Operation Parul Reverse IV when a friendly unit came into heavy contact with an enemy force and requested artillery. He made a low-level reconnaissance to determine the locations of the friendly and enemy forces. Ignoring heavy automatic weapons fire, he began adjusting fire on the enemy.

As the enemy attempted to envelop the unit, Mika flew low to adjust defensive concentrations to cover the withdrawal of the friendly unit.

The lieutenant soon realized that the unit needed a landing zone for resupply and evacuation of their wounded. While adjusting artillery, he looked and found a suitable area for helicopters to land.

His fuel ran low and he was relieved on station by another aerial observer. Immediately after refueling he returned to the area of contact and adjusted concentrations for night defense.

His courage and determination under fire prevented the friendly forces from being overrun by a numerically superior force.

Infantrymen Waylay VC

DI AN, (1st INF-10) — The three 1st Infantry Division soldiers lay on top of their bunker and scanned the night in search of the noise they had heard.

Suddenly the three men, Sgt. David Taylor, Sp4 Timothy Bradley and PFC Edward Olsen of Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry heard something fall against a wire.

Earlier that night the VC probed the perimeter with rifle fire. Now, it seemed, they were attempting to penetrate it.

Taylor called for flares, which revealed three VC. The Big Red One infantrymen opened fire with rifles and grenade launchers. They saw one VC fall.

When dawn broke the men searched the area. Olsen found a blood-stained patch of grass and a trail which led to the woodland. The men followed the trail but found no body. The other two VC, the men decided, must have dragged the body away.

Platoon's Actions Recalled

AN KHE, (1st CAV-10) — Lieutenant Ronald J. Riley shielded a wounded man with his own body.



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Operation Junction City—In a recent battle in War Zone C between reinforced units of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and an estimated enemy regiment, at least 596 enemy were killed. The major part of the action occurred during a 3 1/2-hour period 17 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City. Air strikes and artillery were called in to hit enemy withdrawal routes. During the action, 31 Americans were killed and 109 wounded. Meanwhile, enemy complexes continue to be found by U.S. forces sweeping the area. A company of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division located an enemy base camp 31 miles northeast of Tay Ninh City which contained 20 huts, 12 bunkers, 20 foxholes, a tunnel complex, and a ton of rice.

1st Cavalry Division—A multi-company force from the 1st Brigade clashed with an estimated reinforced enemy company and killed 78 of the enemy. During the battle, which took place 53 miles northwest of Qui Nhon, 14 Americans were killed and 40 wounded. The action was part of Operation Pershing. In 17 other light contacts reported during the operation, 15 enemy were killed.

9th Infantry Division—During Operation Enterprise, 40 enemy were killed by a company of the 3rd Brigade, 23 miles southwest of Saigon. There were no friendly casualties. The action occurred in a flat rice paddy area east of Route 4 when the American company came in contact with an estimated enemy company. Since the operation began Feb. 13, 334 enemy have been killed. In action reported during Operation Chapman, units of the 47th Infantry, 3rd Brigade uncovered a recently used enemy base camp, 17 miles south-southeast of Saigon. The camp contained over 20 newly constructed huts and assorted equipment. Three enemy bodies and six damaged sampans were found in a cave. A squad of the 47th Infantry also ambushed four sampans trying to cross the Dong Tranh River 19 miles southeast of Saigon. The sampans were destroyed and four enemy killed.

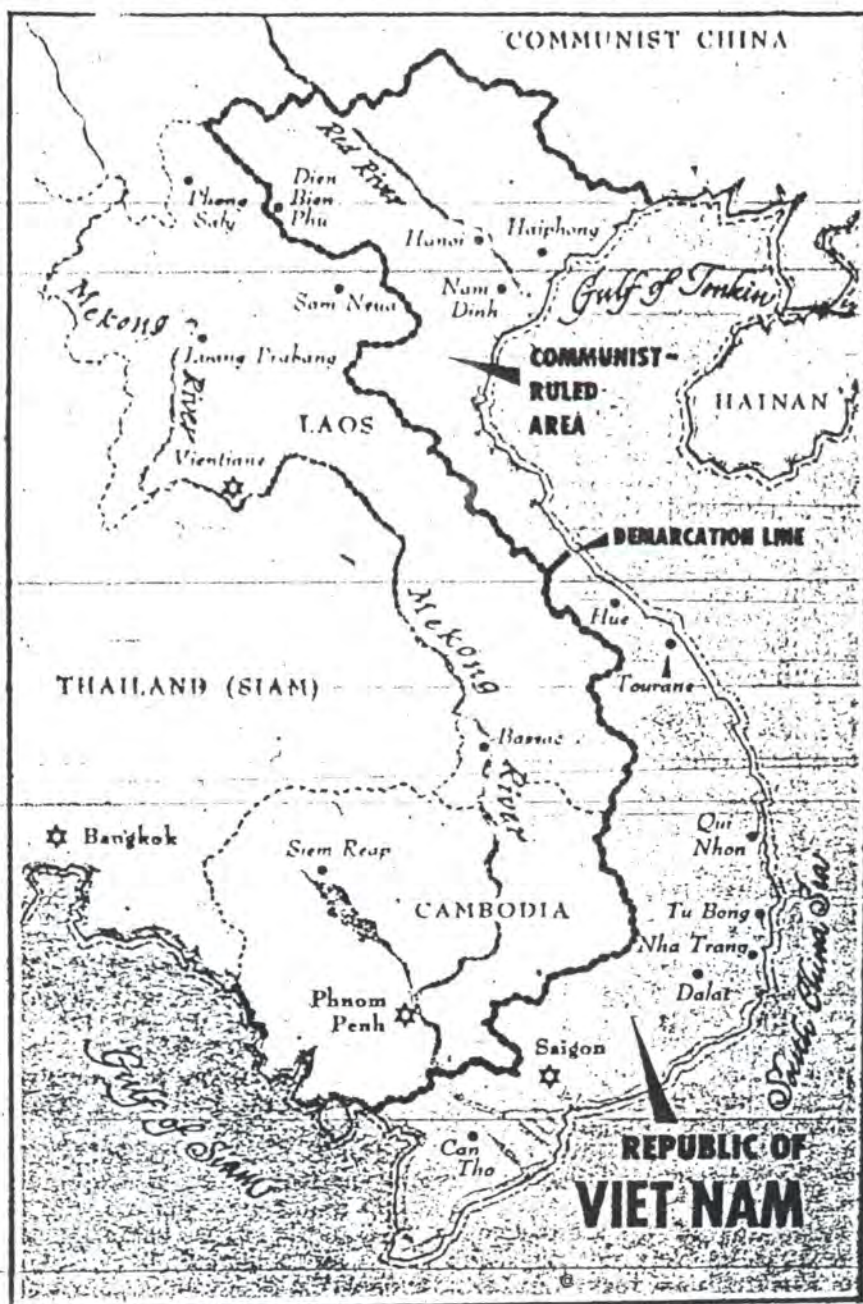
1st Infantry Division—During Operation Lamson 67, a company of the 3rd Brigade located and destroyed an enemy base camp 13 miles southeast of Phu Cuong in Binh Duong Province.

4th Infantry Division—Two companies of the 1st Brigade engaged a reinforced enemy company during Operation Sam Houston, killing 136 enemy and capturing 48 weapons. The eight-hour long battle took place in heavy jungle, 36 miles northwest of Pleiku. The enemy force employed small arms, automatic weapons, and 82mm mortars. U.S. casualties were 25 killed and 39 wounded. Units of the 1st Brigade engaged in Operation Adams killed six enemy and captured 31 weapons in scattered actions 16 miles northwest of Tuy Hoa. There were no U.S. casualties.

199th Light Infantry Brigade—While making a sweep in Gia Dinh Province, elements of a

company killed five enemy six miles northeast of Saigon. In another action, armed helicopters supporting the brigade sighted an estimated enemy company, took them under fire with machine-guns and rockets, and killed 24. The action occurred 14 miles northeast of Tan An. There were no friendly casualties in either incident.

101st Airborne Division—Units of the 1st Brigade have terminated Operation Farragut which had been occurring in Ninh Thuan Province. During the operation, which began Jan. 20, 115 enemy were killed and 80 individual weapons captured. American losses were listed as 14 killed and 128 wounded.



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